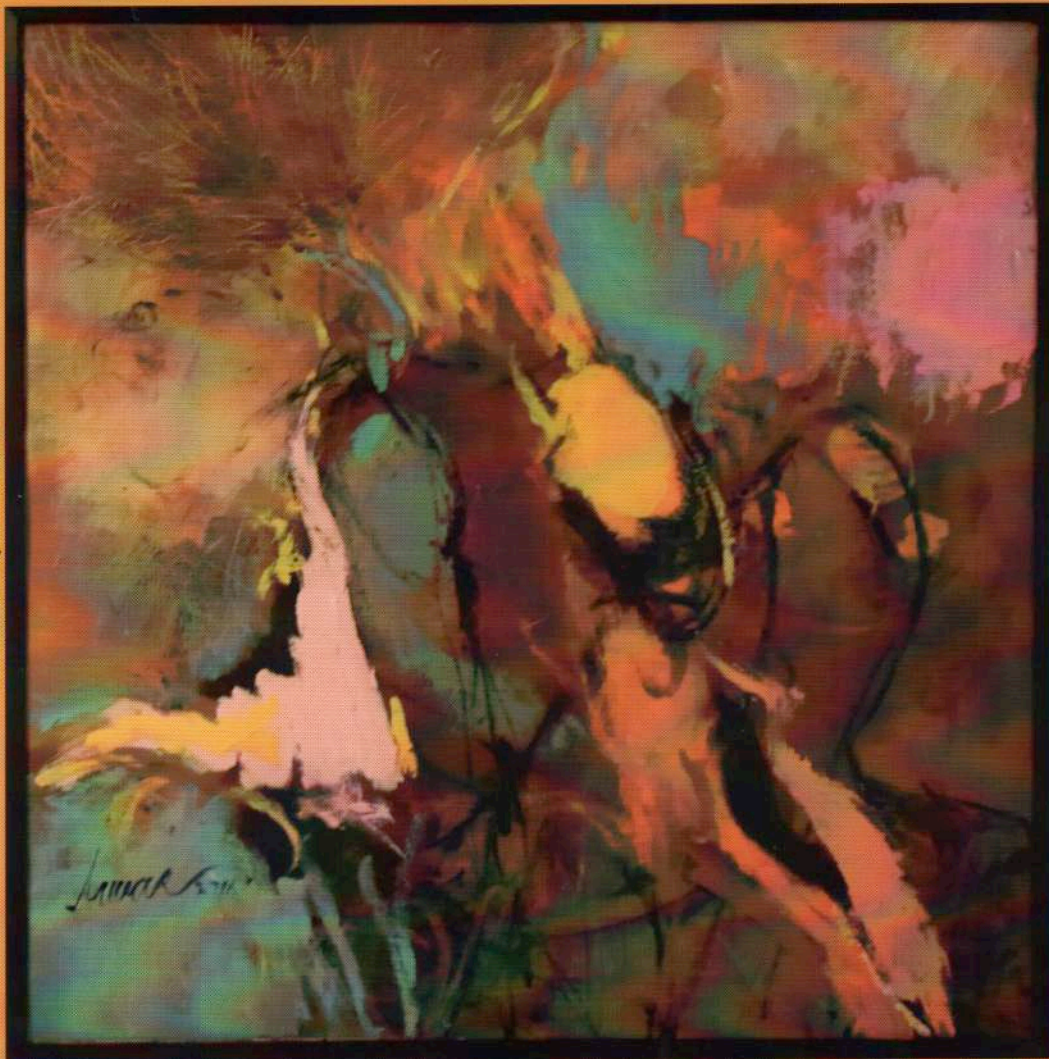


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The artwork of the by Anwar Al-Mashta

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TRANSFORMATIVE



Editor in Chief

Artist and the freedom at this time

Kill freedom, imagination, fantasy, discovery and the dream would kill artistic creativity and deny art itself, its origins, its evolution and its value as a specific attribute of the human race. "Art is, however, something more than the act and the process of artistic creation. The work of art (live beyond the intervention of the artist) becomes intentionally or not, a means of communication between humans, an inseparable value of the company and which also society is inseparable."

Almost everywhere around the world, regardless of political ideology or thought, art and culture are connected to general shared values of freedom, autonomy, equality and self-fulfillment. The stark contrast with those countries and cultures where nowadays the free access to and dissemination of modern art still is perceived as a threat, requires us in these times of crisis, globalization and migration, to pay attention to and reflect upon the relation between (modern) art, the individual, society and the concept of freedom.

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The Artist Ai Weiwei

ISSUE STORY

Invisible Beauty is like a fragile membrane that registers the oscillations of an artistic practice permeated by the current condition of the country and the state of the arts.

Traces of survival in Iraq

A display of more than 500 drawings made by refugees in Northern Iraq - collected by Ruya in Camp Shariya, Camp Baharka and Mar Elia Camp - will accompany the exhibition. Chinese artist Ai Weiwei has selected a number of these works to include in a publication, TRACES OF SURVIVAL: Drawings by Refugees in Iraq selected by Ai Weiwei, which will be launched at the Biennale. The proceeds from the book will be given to those who provided the content.



BIOGRAPHY

A cultural figure of international renown, Ai Weiwei is an activist, architect, curator, filmmaker, and China's most famous artist. Open in his criticism of the Chinese government. Ai was famously detained for months in 2011, then released to house arrest. "I don't see myself as a dissident artist," he says. "I see them as a dissident government!" Some of Ai's best known works are installations, often tending towards the conceptual and sparking dialogue between the contemporary world and traditional.

Iraqi Contemporary Art's 'Invisible Beauty' at the Venice Biennale 2015

The Ruya Foundation announced details of the Iraqi Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, as well as a collaboration with Ai Weiwei.

The recent announcement of the National Pavilion of Iraq at the 56th Venice Biennale reveals the country's representative artists as well as an exclusive collaboration with Chinese activist artist Ai Weiwei.

The artists

The artists in the pavilion represent a break - both in terms of media and of wider social concerns - from the constraints of a classical education that informs the orthodox aesthetic tradition of the majority of Iraqi artists' work. The five artists on show are:

- Latif Al Ani - photographer (Baghdad) "
- Akam Shex Hadi - photographer (Kurdistan) "
- Rabab Ghazoul - performance artist (Wales) "
- Salam Atta Sabri - ceramist and sculptor (Baghdad) "
- Haider Jabbar - painter (Turkey) "

Considered the founding father of Iraqi photography, Latif Al Ani (b. 1932) explores both modernising trends and the retention of ancient traditions. On show will be works from the earlier period of his career.

Akam Shex Hadi's (b. 1985) photography engages with the rise of Isis and the refugee crisis. His new series of 28 photographs for the pavilion incorporates a recurrent motif resembling a snake, which references the Isis flag and serves as a reminder of its ensnaring qualities.

Haider Jabbar (b. 1986) will display a series of watercolour portraits - brutal renditions reflecting on the Isis crisis and the fate of its numerous victims.

Rabab Ghazoul (b. 1970) takes the Chilcot Enquiry as her point of departure. Investigating our relationship with political and social structures, part of her work will include an inventory of new official testimonies about the Iraq war, spoken by anonymous British citizens.

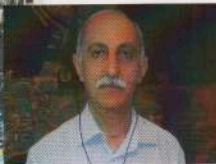
Salam Atta Sabri (b. 1953), who has worked in art administration for a long time, will exhibit more than 100 drawings that he has never shown publicly before, which are symptomatic of crumbling infrastructure.



Akam Shex Hadi



Salam Atta Sabri



Rabab Ghazoul



Haider Jabbar



Latif Al Ani

